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ACTION EAP-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	A-00	ACQ-00	CCO-00	CEA-01
	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	INL-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00
	PERC-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
	ITC-01	L-00	CAC-00	VCE-00	M-00	AC-00	DCP-01
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	OCS-01	OMB-01	DHS-00	OPIC-01	PA-00
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SCT-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSF-00	ASDS-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00

/008W

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O 101033Z OCT 03
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0714
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

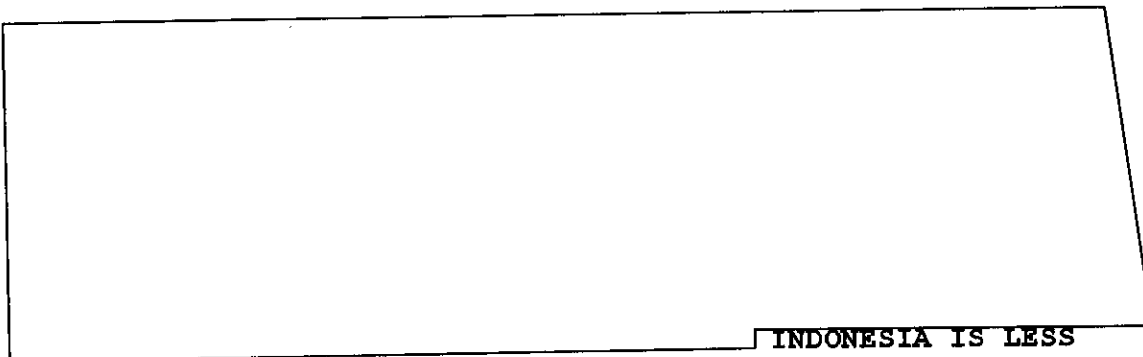
S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 05 JAKARTA 011636

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/10/2013

TAGS: PREL, PTER, ECON, MARR, EAID, ID
SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT,S VISIT TO INDONESIA

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR RALPH L. BOYCE FOR REASON
1.5 (B) AND (D).



B1

INDONESIA IS LESS
THAN SIX MONTHS AWAY FROM LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS FOLLOWED BY
ONE OR TWO ROUNDS OF PRESIDENTIAL BALLOTING--THE COUNTRY'S
FIRST DIRECT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. WE ARE THE LARGEST DONOR
FOR THE ELECTIONS.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SHARON E AHMAD
CLASSIFICATION: SECRET REASON: 1.4(B), 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 10 OCT 2023
DATE/CASE ID: 12 MAY 2009 200706444

PAGES MISSING

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THE VISIT TO BALI

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OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP
IS STRONG AND COMPLEX, AND THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT WILL ADVANCE
OUR AGENDA ACROSS THE BOARD. END SUMMARY.

GUIDING THE RELATIONSHIP

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IT WILL BE THE FIRST VISIT TO
INDONESIA BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT IN NEARLY A DECADE AND THE
FIRST TO BALI SINCE RONALD REAGAN.

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THE FIGHT AGAINST TERROR

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MEGAWATI'S GOVERNMENT HUNTED DOWN, TRIED, CONVICTED, AND SENTENCED TO DEATH THE PRINCIPAL JI TERRORISTS WHO MURDERED OVER 200 PEOPLE IN BALI. IN ADDITION TO THE KEY BOMBERS, POLICE HAVE CAPTURED OVER 120 TERRORISTS SINCE THE BALI BOMBING.

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[REDACTED]

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DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION/2004 ELECTIONS

10. (SBU) FOLLOWING THE LANDMARK CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES OF 2002 THAT LOCKED IN THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRATIC REFORMS, THE 2004 ELECTIONS REPRESENT A CLEAR BENCHMARK IN INDONESIA'S PROGRESS IN STRENGTHENING SECULAR DEMOCRACY, CRAFTING POLITICAL STABILITY AND REJECTING EXTREMISM. INDONESIANS WILL DIRECTLY ELECT THEIR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE FIRST ROUND OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IS JULY 5. IF, AS IS HIGHLY LIKELY, NO ONE TICKET POLLS OVER 50 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, A RUN-OFF WILL TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 20. INDONESIA WILL INAUGURATE ITS NEW PRESIDENT OCTOBER 20. THE ELECTIONS WILL COST SOME \$714 MILLION FOR THE THREE ROUNDS OF VOTING INVOLVING 145 MILLION VOTERS. THE U.S., VIA USAID, IS SO FAR THE LARGEST DONOR SUPPORTING THE ELECTIONS WITH \$24 MILLION.

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ECONOMY STABLE, BUT NOT GROWING ENOUGH

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13. (SBU) INDONESIA WAS ONE OF THE NATIONS HARDEST HIT BY THE 1997 ASIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS, WHICH NOT ONLY DEVASTATED THE ECONOMY BUT ALSO LED TO THE DOWNFALL OF PRESIDENT SUHARTO. INDONESIA, UNDER PRESIDENT MEGAWATI, HAS MANAGED TO RESTORE MACROECONOMIC STABILITY THROUGH TIGHT FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES. CONSUMER DEMAND HAS KEPT GROWTH IN THE 3-4% RANGE IN EACH OF THE PAST FOUR YEARS. HOWEVER, INDONESIA NEEDS STRONGER GROWTH -- ABOVE 5% ANNUALLY -- TO PROVIDE JOBS FOR THE 2.5 MILLION/YEAR ENTERING THE LABOR MARKET AND REEMPLOY AN ESTIMATED 40 MILLION. FOR THIS, INDONESIA MUST ATTRACT INCREASED INVESTMENT. INDONESIA STILL FACES AN OUTFLOW OF INVESTMENT BECAUSE OF A NUMBER OF INTERRELATED IMPEDIMENTS: LACK OF CONTRACT ENFORCEABILITY, DECLINING INFRASTRUCTURE, CONFLICTING REGULATORY AND LEGAL REGIMES, UNCLEAR LINES OF AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY AMONG VARIOUS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT UNDER DECENTRALIZATION, AND CORRUPTION.

14. (SBU) THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PERIODICALLY MADE THE IMF ITS SCAPEGOAT FOR THE CONTINUING ECONOMIC MUDDLE, AND LAST MONTH IT DECIDED AGAINST RENEWING ITS PROGRAM WITH THE IMF. HOWEVER, A WHITE PAPER IT ISSUED IN SEPTEMBER TRACKS

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SECRETARY POWELL CAME TO

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REFORMS. THE WHITE PAPER ADDRESSES MOST OF THE IMPEDIMENTS NOTED ABOVE AND PROVIDES TARGET DATES FOR ACTION. THE GOVERNMENT WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT THE WHITE PAPER, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE MANY OF THE ACTION ITEMS REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE ACTION GOING INTO AN ELECTION YEAR AND AFFECT POWERFUL ENTRENCHED INTERESTS. IN THE END, THE MARKET (FOR INSTANCE INVESTMENT FIGURES) WILL DETERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE PROGRAM.

RETURNING TO DIALOGUE IN ACEH

15. (SBU) IN DECEMBER 2002, THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE SEPARATIST FREE ACEH MOVEMENT (GAM) SIGNED A CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. WE CO-CHAIRLED A MAJOR DONOR'S CONFERENCE WITH JAPAN, THE EU, AND WORLD BANK THAT SUPPORTED THE CEASEFIRE. THE AGREEMENT TEMPORARILY SUCCEEDED IN GREATLY REDUCING THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE. HARDLINERS ON BOTH SIDES UNDERMINED THE CEASEFIRE, AND IN MAY 2003 THE AGREEMENT COLLAPSED. THE GOVERNMENT DECLARED MARTIAL LAW AND BEGAN THE LARGEST MILITARY OPERATION IN INDONESIA IN ALMOST 30 YEARS, INVOLVING 45,000 MILITARY AND POLICE. THE MILITARY HAS SUCCEEDED IN PUTTING GAM UNDER SEVERE PRESSURE AND LIMITING ITS ROOM FOR MANEUVER. IT HAS NOT CAPTURED TOP GAM COMMANDERS OR INCAPACITATED ITS ABILITY TO RESIST. THE BEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT 1000 PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN THE MILITARY OPERATION WITH 2200 WOUNDED. THE GOVERNMENT IS NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER TO EXTEND MARTIAL LAW, SET TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 19, AND MOVE TO A TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD ENCOURAGE A RETURN TO DIALOGUE AND REITERATE WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF ACEH, AS A MEMBER OF THE TOKYO PROCESS.

LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

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16. (C) INDONESIA HAS PUSHED HARD TO REINVIGORATE ASEAN, PARTICULARLY FOCUSING ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME ISSUES. MEGAWATI HAS JUST HOSTED THE OCTOBER 6-7 ASEAN SUMMIT THAT WITNESSED THE SIGNING OF THE BALI CONCORD II -- A ROAD MAP TO CLOSER ECONOMIC, SECURITY, AND CULTURAL COOPERATION.

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THE GOI CO-CHAIRING WITH AUSTRALIA TWO LANDMARK CONFERENCES ON PEOPLE SMUGGLING, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME THAT BEGAN A DIALOGUE AMONG SOURCE, TRANSIT, AND DESTINATION COUNTRIES. INDONESIA WILL CHAIR THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE (PREPCOM III) FOR THE 2005 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT). PREPCOM III WILL CONVEENE IN NEW YORK IN APRIL 2004, AND INDONESIA WILL PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN BOTH THE PROCESS AND ITS SUBSTANTIVE FINAL PRODUCT TO STRENGTHEN THE NPT.

PERCEPTIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

17. (U) RECENT POLLS IN INDONESIA INDICATE A SHARP DECLINE IN FAVORABLE OPINIONS OF THE U.S., ALTHOUGH MOST INDONESIANS HAVE HISTORICALLY HELD POSITIVE VIEWS OF THE U.S. AS A FREE AND DEMOCRATIC NATION, A LEADER IN TECHNOLOGY, AND A CHAMPION OF FREE TRADE. ATTITUDES TOWARD THE U.S. ARE INCREASINGLY DISCONNECTED FROM THEIR EVALUATION OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND INCREASINGLY INFLUENCED BY BROADER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. MOST PRIVATE POLLING FIRMS ATTRIBUTE THE RECENT DECLINE IN INDONESIAN ATTITUDES TOWARD DISSATISFACTION WITH U.S. POLICIES REGARDING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT, MILITARY ACTION IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, COUNTER-TERRORISM, AND VISA ISSUANCE -- POLICIES OFTEN SEEN AS AGGRESSIVE AND HOSTILE TO MUSLIMS.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ

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CONCLUSION

19. (C) PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT WILL STRENGTHEN OUR ALREADY STRONG BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. PRESIDENT MEGAWATI INVITED PRESIDENT BUSH TO VISIT DURING HER 2001 OFFICIAL VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN THE DARK DAYS FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 11.

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